Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-41. (Canceled)

42. (Currently amended) A method for determining whether a test cell from a given tissue has an inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) or pre-IBD phenotype ~~of a test cell from a given tissue~~, said method comprising:

(a) determining an expression level of ~~at least one gene product in said test cell, wherein said gene product is an mRNA of a gene selected from the group consisting of~~ a macrophage inflammatory protein-2β (GRO3) gene product, neutrophil lipocalin (HNL) gene product, macrophage elastase (MMP-12) gene product, elastase specific inhibitor (elafin) gene product, and type VI collagen α3 chain (COL6A3) gene product in said test cell; ~~and~~

(b) comparing the expression level of each of said gene ~~product~~ products in said test cell to an expression level of the same ~~said~~ gene product in a control cell of the given tissue type[[,]] ; and

(c) associating ~~wherein~~ a difference in the expression level of at least one of said gene ~~product~~ products in said test cell from the expression level of the same gene product in said control cell ~~indicates that said test cell has~~ with an IBD or pre-IBD phenotype in said test cell.

43. (Previously presented) The method of claim 42, wherein said IBD is ulcerative colitis (UC).

44. (Previously presented) The method of claim 42, wherein said IBD is Crohn's disease (CD).

45. (Previously presented) The method of claim 42, comprising distinguishing between UC and CD.

46. (Currently amended) The method of claim 42, wherein the expression level of at least one of said gene ~~product~~ products differs from the expression level of the same gene product in said control cell by at least a factor of two.

47. (Previously presented) The method of claim 42, wherein said test cell is obtained from a needle biopsy core, a surgical resection sample, a bowel sample, lymph node tissue, or serum.

48. (Currently amended) The method of claim 42, wherein the expression level of said gene ~~product~~ products is determined using Northern blot analysis, reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction, in situ hybridization, or an array.

49. (Currently amended) The method of claim 48, wherein said array comprises:

(a) nucleic acid probes of 12-40 nucleotides in length, wherein said nucleic acid probes are complementary to said gene products and ~~that specifically~~ hybridize under high stringency conditions to said gene ~~product~~ products; and

(b) a substrate to which said nucleic acid probes are bound.

50. (Previously presented) The method of claim 49, wherein said substrate is selected from the group consisting of paper, membranes, filters, chips, pins, and glass.

51. (Previously presented) The method of claim 49, wherein said nucleic acid probes are bound to said substrate by covalent bonds or hydrophobic interactions.

52. (Previously presented) The method of claim 49, wherein said nucleic acid probes are spotted onto said substrate in a two-dimensional matrix or array.